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BOOK-NOTICES.

[All publications received, which relate directly or indirectly to the Old Testament, will be promptly noticed under this head. Attention will not be confined to new books; but notices will be given, so far as possible, of such old books, in this department of study, as may be of general interest to pastors and students.]

THE COMPREHENSIVE COMMENTARY ON THE QURAN.*

The plan adopted by Mr. Wherry in preparing his comprehensive Commentary on the Quran is thus stated in his preface :

1. To present Sale's translation of the Quran in the form of the Arabic original, indicating the *Sipara*, *Surat*, *Ruqu of the Sipara*, *Ruqu of the Surat*, etc., as they are in the best Oriental editions.

2. To number the verses as they are in the Roman Uerdu edition of Maulvi Abdul Qadir's translation. This arrangement will be of special benefit to missionaries in India.

3. To exhibit in the notes and comments the views of the best Muslim commentaries. Much has also been culled from the best European writers on Islam.

4. To the above is prefixed Sale's Preliminary Discourse, with additional notes and emendations.

These notes and emendations are essential to a correct understanding of the Quran by English readers. Sale's translation partakes so much of a personal exposition or interpretation that it gives us his views of the Quran, rather than the Quran, pure and simple. And modern research has brought to light many things concerning the history of the Arabs which greatly modify many of Sale's statements. Mr. Wherry has supplied the needed corrections. His judicious comments "call special attention to certain doctrines of the Quran, *e. g.*, its testimony to the genuineness and credibility of the Christian Scriptures current in the days of Muhammed ; the evidence it affords to its own character as a fabrication ; its testimony to the imposture of the Arabian prophet, in his professing to attest the *Former Scriptures*, while denying almost every cardinal doctrine of the same,—in his putting into the mouth of God garbled statements as to Scripture history, prophecy, and doctrine, to suit the purposes of his prophetic pretensions,—and in his appealing to Divinity to sanction his crimes against morality and decency." Mr. Wherry has performed his work in a most scholarly manner. His edition of the Quran is undoubtedly the best.

A STUDY OF THE PENTATEUCH.

One of the best points in connection with this book is the fact that it is intended *for popular reading*. Ministers, we think, would be greatly surprised did they know how familiar to their parishioners the questions discussed in this book, and others of a similar nature have become within a few years. This is lost sight

* A comprehensive Commentary on the Quran: Comprising Sale's Translation and Preliminary Discourse, with additional Notes and Emendations, together with a complete Index to the Text, Preliminary Discourse, and Notes, By the Rev. E. M. Wherry, M. A., vol. I., and vol. 29 in the English and Foreign Philosophical Library. Boston, Houghton, Mifflin and Company, 1882. Price, \$4.50.

of in the world of scholarship, and the great mass of matter written on these subjects is, for the most part, of such a character as to be of no service to the ordinary reader. Dr. Stebbins, a teacher of many years, a scholar of ripe experience, has undertaken the difficult task of presenting a most intricate subject, in a popular manner, and it is due the author to say that he has succeeded admirably. His *Introductory Examination* of Kuenen's Religion of Israel* is *cutting*, fresh, and upon the whole, satisfactory. He makes no assertions which do not seem backed by careful and laborious research. The second part of his work is presented in a manner more clear, in a style more simple than we have ever before seen. After a brief Introduction he takes up the *External Evidence* of the Mosaic Authorship of the Pentateuch as found in writings (1) from Christ to Malachi, (2) from Malachi to the Captivity, (3) from the Captivity to David, (4) from David to Moses. Under the head of *Internal Evidence* there are taken up the questions: (1) Antiquity of Style; (2) Contents and Structure; (3) Undesigned Coincidences; (4) Minuteness of Details; (5) Chasms in History; (6) References to Egyptian Customs; (7) Adoption of Egyptian words and Rites; (8) No Evidences of Later Enactments, etc. It is sufficient to say that every pastor, every Sunday-school Teacher should read this book.

THE BOOK OF ENOCH.†

The existence of an ancient apocryphal book called Enoch is abundantly proved by the references made to it in Jude and nearly all the church Fathers; and the character of these citations are such as to show beyond all doubt that it was virtually the same as the one now before us. The book is somewhat prophetic in character, seeking to unravel the past and future mysteries of divine providence under the assumption of a superhuman source of information. It discusses theological questions, such as the relation between men's sin and God's justice, the part of God in the wonderful workings of natural laws, the final and universal overthrow of evil powers and the reign of Jehovah, the pre-existence, or rather pre-mundane existence of the Messiah, his coming and inauguration of the long-expected kingdom of glory, the resurrection and the rewards of the good after death and the punishment of the wicked.

We regard this book, in its present form, as an invaluable contribution to theological study. It is one of the oldest specimens of apocalyptic literature and reflects the convictions and desires of God's people at various periods of their history. It was modeled after the old prophets and was written in a devout spirit and for religious purposes. It is certainly a most important aid to a proper understanding of the political, social, moral and religious surroundings of Christ. It not only confirms much that had hitherto been learned about his times, but contains information not otherwise obtainable.

* A study of the Pentateuch. For Popular Reading. Being an inquiry into the age of the so-called books of Moses, with an introductory examination of recent Dutch theories, as represented by Dr. Kuenen's "Religion of Israel." By RUFUS P. STEBBINS, D. D., formerly President, Lecturer on Hebrew Literature, and Professor of Theology in Meadville Theological School. Boston, Geo. W. Ellis, 141 Franklin Street, 1881, 12 mo. cloth, \$1.25.

† The Book of Enoch: Translated from the Ethiopic, with Introduction and Notes. By Rev. George H. Schodde, Ph. D., Professor in Capital University, Columbus, Ohio. Andover: W. F. Draper, 1882. 12mo. Cloth, \$1.50.